

A special thanks to the KAA officers who took principal roles at the sites and lab and then helped with the evening events: Dick Keck, Ken Sherraden, Mary Conrad, Verna Detrich, and Greg Jackson.

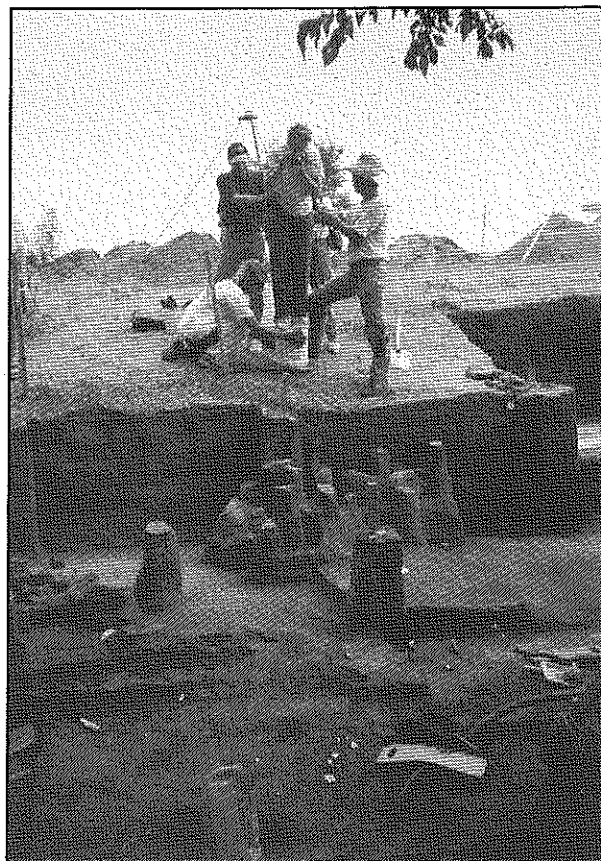
Another first at the 1996 KATP field school was the establishment of a Campsite Committee, co-chaired by Bob and Freda Thompson. They collected the camp fees, checked the showers, opened and closed the school, and took on many other responsibilities for the smooth running of the KAA campground. Bob and Freda are much appreciated by everyone who camped during the two weeks at Kanopolis.

Yet another landmark for the KATP field school was the very enthusiastic reception that the people of Ellsworth County gave KAA members. I think it was one of the best in the history of the KATP. Special thanks go to the United Methodist Church and Kanopolis Middle School for the use of their facilities and to the Ellsworth County Historical Society, whose members provided the first-ever food service. The KAA has never had this type of service, and Janel Cook worked many hours before and during the KATP field school, setting up schedules, events, tours, and meeting places, and the KAA appreciates all her efforts. Everyone in the communities of Kanopolis and Ellsworth were extremely helpful, and we appreciate everything they did to make us all feel welcome.

The 1996 KATP field school provided a great opportunity for professional and avocational archeologists to participate in and share an educational archeological experience. This year's field school was an extremely huge project—incomprehensible to anyone who did not experience the first two weeks of June in and around the town of Kanopolis. Of course, every KATP field school is unique by the virtue of the subject to be excavated, the location of the site, and the KAA members who participate. All of these factors determine the final outcome and whether it is a successful venture or not. The 1996 KATP field school was successful, and many thanks go to all of you who made it so.

#### FIELD SCHOOL SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED

About 8,300 hours of skilled labor was contributed by 185 volunteers during the 1996 Kansas Archeology Training Program field school. The 90 lab workers made great strides in processing the collections, using the new cataloguing system for historic artifacts. The lab was visited by 342 people from 9 states, including Alaska, and one foreign country (Sweden). The classes taught by John Reynolds (Basic Archeological Excavation) and Steve Allie (Material Culture of the Frontier Army, 1827-1900) were very well received. John Reynolds and Chris Schoen, guided by volunteer Mike Wilson, recorded extensive data with often temperamental total station mapping equipment.



Sharon Sage, steadied by Mark Darrow, Bob Ziegler, and Barry Weinhold, photographs Depression 13 at 14EW26. Photo by Judy Schrater.

Excavations at Fort Ellsworth (14EW26), directed by Robert Ziegler of the Kansas City District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, concentrated on 2 of the 14 depressions in the east bank of the Smoky Hill River. As anticipated, the depressions proved to be dugouts, and features and artifacts confirmed a military occupation. In Depression 10, where Greg Jackson served as crew chief, a brick and mortar baking oven was discovered and documented in great detail. Depression 13, under Ken Sherraden's supervision, appeared to be a residential dugout and contained a hearth, much bottle glass and food bones, and an 1865 penny in place on the living surface. The remains of palisade-style walls, constructed by setting posts into trenches, were defined in both structures. A few units were excavated on the knoll and flats to the east, and these areas were thoroughly covered by systematic metal detection. The excavations have now been backfilled, and permanent signs will be placed to promote protection of the site.

At Fort Harker (14EW310) a total of 50 excavation units of varying sizes were opened. Four portions of the 1867-1872 military post were examined. Initially investigations focused on areas to the west and northwest of



Mike Wildgen of Lawrence and Ernest Fulton of Ellsworth take depth measurement while excavating in Depression 10 at 14EW26. Photo by Brenda Culbertson.

the old parade ground in the vicinity of the Guard House, one of the four Cavalry Stables, the 1868 frame Enlisted Barracks, and the associated Company Mess House. Excavations showed that the area north of the Guard House had been used as a sand pit and town dump during the early twentieth century. Dick Keck supervised two units that determined the depth and structure of the Guard House foundations and located the probable northeast corner of the stable building. No evidence of the Post Bakery was identified. Three units were excavated by Ernie Justus in an unsuccessful effort to locate the enlisted barrack, which appeared on only one of the two military plans of the fort. Several units were excavated at each of the 1867 log Enlisted Barracks. The northwest corner of the log barrack north of the parade ground was identified by Cynthia Keck's crew. Bob Thompson's crew located the north wall footing and segments of wooden flooring from the log barrack south of the parade ground. Marsha King, Martin Stein, and Karolyn Kinsey, working after the field school ended, located the northwest corner of this structure. Cleve Mulder and Ernie Justus excavated two brick bases, which probably supported posts for the Mess House behind the log barrack. Martin Stein and Baron Shively, using shovels and a coring tool, located a privy behind one of the log Enlisted Barracks. Approximately 80 percent of this enlisted privy was excavated. Four units were excavated around the Junior Officer's Quarters. Dick Keck's crew located and excavated the Commanding Officer's privy.

Wayne Donohoe led a small crew of metal detectors and recorders, examining three areas at Fort Harker: the yard in front of the Junior Officer's Quarters, a portion of the parade ground in front of the Commanding Officer's Quarters, and an area behind the Post Headquarters and two Officer's Quarters. Other portions of the fort site were not

examined with metal detectors due to the presence of modern roads and houses and other previous disturbance.

In addition to the archeological investigations at Fort Harker, Laverna Ernst's building documentation crew (Terese Bogart, Ailene Bowie, Walter Ernst, Esther Jarvis, Robin Johnson, Beth Keck, Beryl Shriner, Rosemarie Wallen, and Alicia Widdows) produced detailed measured drawings of the floor plans, exterior elevations, and interior wall elevations of the Guard House, Junior Officer's Quarters, and Commanding Officer's Quarters. Cynthia Keck risked life, limb, and bug infestation to investigate and document the interior structure of the large sandstone Commanding Officer's Cistern.

Full technical reports will be produced on both sites. Robert Ziegler, principal author of the Fort Ellsworth report, states that the historical background section is completed, maps are being generated, and detailed analysis of botanical and faunal materials and recovered artifacts will begin this fall. The publication should be printed in October 1997. Marsha King will produce the Fort Harker report by the end of 1996.

The project was well publicized. Sarah Keck, Harold Reed, and Marsha King were interviewed on the Rick Mack radio show in Salina, a program was shot by Smoky Hill Public TV, and extensive newspaper coverage was received.

#### KARF REPORT by Jean Howell, KARF Chair

The 1996 Kansas Anthropological Research Fund (KARF) raffle was an enormous success. The drawing was held at the end of the second KATP pot luck dinner and resume in the United Methodist Church of Kanopolis on Friday, June 14. Each item was donated and won by a KAA member. Margie Reed, Salina, donated two beaded leather hat bands. The first choice winner was Mark Darrow, Minneapolis; Gary Kraisinger, Halstead, was the lucky winner of the second hat band. Virginia Rexroad, Hutchinson, won the pottery bowl created by Karen Tevis, Wichita. Karen's work can be seen at Gallery XII, 412 East Douglas in Wichita, at her home, and at Gallery Bob Lewis, 1421 Main in Winfield. Beryl Shriner, Great Bend, won the silver and stone necklace donated by Joe Higgins, Topeka. Joe also donated a German silver belt buckle with a turquoise KAA inlay, and this item was won by Paul Johnson, Gypsum. The winning tickets were drawn by Erin Johnson, Gypsum. I thank her for her help, and I'm sure her father also thanks her! Joe Higgins, Karen Tevis, and Margie Reed have been great supporters of KARF raffles, and many tickets have been sold for chances to win one of their items. Many thanks goes to these KAA members for their help and support. A profit of over \$650 was made for KARF through sales of raffle tickets, trowels, and T-shirts during the 1996 KATP field school.